

Application No. 09/670,424
Response to Office Action

Customer No. 01933

R E M A R K S

Consideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

CONFIRMATION OF ELECTION

Applicants hereby confirm the election of Invention I, claims 1-16, for further prosecution on the merits, without traverse. The election was timely made in the RESPONSE filed June 25, 2004. Non-elected claims 17-29 were canceled in said RESPONSE filed June 25, 2004.

The Examiner's courtesy in conducting a telephone interview on July 14, 2004 is greatly appreciated. As a result of the telephone interview, claims 12, 14 and 15 have been amended so as to be more clearly includable in the elected subject matter.

Claim 12 was amended so as to be clearly consistent with its parent claim 10, and to further restrict the subject matter of its parent claim 10. Additionally, in the last paragraph of amended claim 12, amendments were made to avoid antecedent basis problems.

Claim 13 has been amended so as to provide better antecedent basis for the term "distributed storage medium" recited in the next-to-last line of claim 13.

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Claims 14 and 15 were amended so as to depend from claim 13, and to make other minor changes.

Claims 17-29 remain cancelled.

It is respectfully submitted that the amendments to the claims are not related to patentability, and do not narrow the scope of the claims either literally or under the doctrine of equivalents.

In view of the foregoing, it is clearly seen that all of claims 1-16 are includable in elected Group I, it is respectfully requested that prosecution on the merits now proceed with respect to claims 1-16 as set forth herein.

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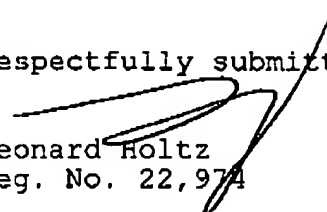
In view of the foregoing, entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

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If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,


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